

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 28, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 18-19 and 21-32 remain in this application, where claims 3-5, 8-17 and 20 are canceled without prejudice and claims 25-32 had been added.

In the Final Office Action, claims 26, 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 26, 28 and 31 have been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 26, 28 and 31 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-7, 18-20, 22-25, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly

anticipated by JP 2002-014359 (Masahide). Claims 21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Masahide in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,592,623 (Yamamoto). Claims 26-27 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Masahide in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,859,251 (Wang). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 6-7, 18-19 and 21-32 are patentable over Masahide, Yamamoto and Wang for at least the following reasons.

At the outset, it is respectfully submitted that Wang is not prior art to the present application. The present application was PCT filed on October 23, 2003 as PCT/IB2003/004888, which designates the U.S. and is published in English as WO 2004/049050, as well as claims the benefit of a European Patent Application No. EP 02079945.8, filed on November 22, 2002, which is thus the effective filing date of the present application.

As the effective filing date of the present application of November 22, 2002 is before the Wang U.S. filing date of June 25, 2003, Wang is not available as prior art with regard to the present application. Further, as correctly noted on page 6 of the Final Office Action, Masahide does not teach or suggest the features of

claims 26-27 and 31-32. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-27 and 31-32 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Masahide is directed to a method and device for manufacturing liquid crystal display curved surface panel, where a first substrate S1 is held on a curved surface 113 of a stage 11. Liquid crystal material L is disposed between the first substrate S1 and a second substrate S2, shown in FIG 2. The two substrates are shown FIGs 11-12 as P1, p2. The second substrate S2 is pressed on the first substrate S1 by what is termed a pressurizing member 12 shown in FIG 2. Thus, the curved display panel is formed by pressure or force applied by the pressurizing member 12 against the curved surface 113 of the stage 11.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 18 and 28, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

pre-tensioning the second non-precurved film
by a force to form a pre-tensioned surface;
adhering the first non-precurved film to the
pre-tensioned surface; and
releasing the force to contract the pre-

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tensioned surface and form a curved surface of
the curved flat panel display device.

These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Masahide. Yamamoto is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Masahide. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 18 and 28 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 6-7, 19, 21-27 and 29-32 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1, 18 and 28.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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